

September 18, 2019

To the members of the 4J School Board,

Youth in the Eugene area are planning to participate in a variety of actions on Friday, September 20th, as part of a youth-organized global climate strike. Potentially hundreds of 4J students are planning to join the effort to demand that transformative action be taken to address the climate crisis before it is too late. Eugene Education Association's representative council urges the Board to support this effort by allowing students to take the lead and exercise their civic and democratic right to participate in such action. EEA recognizes student participation in this action as an authentic educational activity aligned with the goals of our district for student learning. According to 4J's own resolution on climate change action dated May 1, 2019:

*"...the global impact, urgency, and magnitude of the challenge of addressing climate change requires leadership in all sectors of society and across all levels of government;"*

Our nation is currently experiencing a lack of leadership in the climate crisis, and young people are stepping up and taking charge. Eugene Education Association recognizes that educators need to lead in part by supporting students who choose to take peaceful action around this issue. Therefore, we further call on the 4J Board to allow educators the opportunity to support our students and their families who wish to participate on September 20, without fear of discipline or retribution. Climate change is not a partisan issue. It is an urgent, multi-generational social justice and human rights issue that requires action before it's too late.

Respectfully,

Eugene Education Association Representative Council and Human & Civil Rights Committee